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Rand Has More Than 170,000 Classified Documents on Hand

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An Air Force inventory of all highly classified documents held by the Rand Corp.—the “think-tank” that has been implicated in the leak of the secret Pentagon study on the Vietnam war—reveals that the firm has more than 170,000 documents classified either secret or top secret.

Most of these are held at the firm's Santa Monica, Calif., office. Dr. Daniel Ellsberg—who has admitted leaking the papers to the press—was employed at Rand from 1959 to 1964 and again from 1967 to 1970.

Rand at Santa Monica, according to the Air Force, has 5,000 top secret and “special access” documents, and 153,000 secret documents, and custody. At the firm's Washington, D.C., office, there are another 59 top secret and 15,000 secret volumes of classified material.

In July 13 memorandum to Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, which was released yesterday by the Pentagon, Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans confirmed that the Air Force investigation of Rand had turned up “some deficiencies” in handling classified documents at the Washington office.

The investigation of the Santa Monica headquarters was not yet completed, Sea-

mans said.

Seamans said that all classified documents held by the firm are being transferred to Air Force custody as they are inventoried. The documents will remain at Rand, but henceforth the corps of scientists and strategists who work there will not be allowed to take top secret and special material out of special Air Force-administered reading rooms.

Seamans also said Rand's “need-to-know” status was being reviewed, which means that a study will be conducted to make sure that only material necessary to Rand's specific work will be made available.

Privately, Air Force officials

said the crackdown would no doubt have a depressing effect on the work atmosphere at Rand, which has played a major role in several key weapon systems developments.

The tightening up on security, which was ordered by Laird July 2, may also spill over into two other Air Force think tanks — Aerospace Corp. and Mitre Corp. — when the Rand investigation is completed.

MORI/CDF